

## CARRANZA DECLINES TO GIVE GUARANTEES

Rebel Leader Will Not Make Promise of Safety for Followers of Huerta Regime.

CARRANZA WILL RESIST

Federal Army Loyal to Provisional President, and Mexican Capital Will Be Scene of Desperate Battle. No Unconditional Surrender.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, August 3.—General Venustiano Carranza, on behalf of the Constitutional army, has definitely refused to give any guarantee for the safety of the lives and property of the adherents of the defunct Huerta regime, and has declined to permit the peace delegates sent to Saltillo by Provisional President Carbajal to surrender unconditionally.

When this information was communicated to Washington, the United States Department of State, President Wilson sent two long messages through the Brazilian minister, urging President Carranza and the Provisional Cabinet to surrender unconditionally.

After a conference between President Carranza, Secretary of War Venustiano Carranza, and Secretary of War Venustiano Carranza, United States representatives were informed that the Provisional Government would make no further advance by the rebels.

The Cabinet went into session immediately to devise means of raising funds for the campaign. The House of Representatives was assembled early in the evening to consider the bill for the purpose of providing for the consideration of the bill.

No opposition to any suggestion made by Carranza will be offered. Carranza has been the only one of the people in the Federal district, and anything he may propose for the defense of the capital will meet with public approval. The army in the Federal district will remain loyal. Secretary of War Venustiano Carranza said: "We have 50,000 Federal soldiers now in the capital, and every man will remain loyal to the last."

Constitutionalists, estimated at about 125,000 men, are reported to be moving south along the coast of the Mexican National Railway. They are still some distance from the Federal district line. It is thought that part of General Obregon's division of the Northwest.

## PROSECUTION RESTS IN TRIAL OF MRS. HALL

(Continued From First Page.)

Johnston told him that he had been brought into court "on the biggest fool errand," and that he was making the easiest money he ever had made.

Mr. Flannagan swore that Johnston told him that he did not know a thing about the case. As an offset to this, Johnston had previously testified that he never had mentioned being paid for his services as a witness, and swore that he had not received any money.

As a further offset to the evidence of Mr. Wood and Mr. Flannagan, it is said that the prosecution may put on in rebuttal witnesses who will swear that Mr. Wood threatened Johnston, and forced him to stand at a railroad and tell two tales about his examination of the pistol.

When he was asked why he had become so much interested in the case, Mr. Wood replied that he had become concerned because an attempt had been made to prove his daughter a liar. Miss Wood had testified that she had seen her father at a railroad mile-post a month or six weeks before the murder. Johnston swore that he examined the revolver thoroughly nine days before the murder, and found every chamber loaded. The veracity of the two will be in question before the jury.

The testimony of W. J. Roberts, who has self-confessedly interested himself in the case, was the first witness called by the defense. He testified in his behalf to-day, and was regarded as decisive by the prosecution. He went upon the stand as an expert in the use of firearms, and said that he had fired a .38-caliber revolver at an old field pine with varying effect. The defense is attempting to prove that a wound of such nature, if placed close against the head, would have sent the bullet crashing through the skull. The bullet which killed Victor Hall lodged against the bone just under the left eye. Attorney Gordon asked to be allowed to cite in the evidence the case of a man who committed suicide with a high-power revolver, and in which the missile passed through and out of the skull. The court refused.

NEITHER WITNESS SHAKEN BY CROSS-EXAMINATION

As a final blow to the defense, the prosecution this morning put on two witnesses—Mrs. L. P. Yancey and W. Sterling Hall, brother of Victor—to swear that Mrs. Hall told them that she reckoned she would be the child if the evidence of the two school teachers didn't save her. Neither was shaken on cross-examination.

Louisa Courthouse was thronged to-day by people coming in by train, automobile, wagon and afoot. Early this morning the little town was astir with visitors, among them several parties from Richmond, who had been attracted by the latest sensation. The courtroom was packed from the judge's bench to the doors, and many of the spectators sought and found seats within the railing of the gallery. Noticeable among the throng was the large number of women—women of all degrees and of every age, clothed after the manner of the famous Lubbock or in the manner of the age of Louisonets and aprons.

And in this raw atmosphere of tense excitement, among this throng of avid seekers after sensation, the lone woman at the bar after the trial morning, when her husband was slain at his door and cruel suspicion fastened upon her, but upon that day when she may have been able to go forth a free woman to live and love again.

CAPTAIN A. G. SMITH, FIRST WITNESS OF DAY

When court opened this morning Captain A. G. Smith, of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, was called to the stand. He identified the burned clothes found in the family attic after the fire on May 14. A white waist, he said, was missing. Witness stated that he smelled kerosene when he entered the pantry.

M. S. Ankle, of the Chesapeake and Ohio secret service, was the next witness. He was asked to identify the burned clothes, which he did.

A. G. Smith was recalled to see if he could find the missing shirtwaist in the pile of clothes. He was unable to do so.

John Johnston was recalled. He was asked to describe the front porch of the house. The jury could determine whether or not the door had been open when the fire broke out. Johnston said that the planks of the porch were wet and

so, so that footfalls upon them would have been deadened.

R. Mackay was recalled to give the measurements of the porch. He was present when the grand jury examined the premises.

Mrs. L. P. Yancey was called. "Did you have any conversation with Mrs. Hall?" she was asked.

"Yes," she said. "Victor heard a noise on the front porch and he got up and went to the door. She said she heard a shot and him fall, and then she woke Beckie and the others."

She said afterwards that Mr. Buck Dunkum had been suspected, and that they were beginning to suspect her. She said that she reckoned they would send her to the electric chair for the murder of the school teachers, whose evidence would save her."

W. Sterling Hall said that she told him the same story of the shooting as told by others.

She said she found Victor in a cramped position, lying partly on one side. She said she shook him, but got no response. She noticed that his face was pale, and that he was breathing over and saw he was shot in the back of the head. She asked him who shot him and got no response. Then she went into the bedroom and got a bottle and put it under his head.

The witness said that Mrs. Hall went into the pantry to awaken Beckie as soon as she found Victor was dead. Before she had examined the body, Beckie had said that Mrs. Hall told her when she came into the pantry that Victor was shot in the back of the head.

He had a further conversation. He said: "She said that her conscience was clear, but that she reckoned she would go to the electric chair if the two teachers didn't save her."

"She said that Mr. Roberts brought the news that she was suspected, and asked about everything some one to one of the insurance companies in which Victor had a policy, and they employed Mackay."

He said that he watched the witness intently. Hall said that his conversation with his brother's widow occurred on April 12, two days after the murder.

"Was it not understood," asked Mr. Gordon, "that Mr. Mackay was to make a report to Mrs. Hall?"

"There was nothing," he said about it," witness replied. He denied that he instructed Mackay not to report to Mrs. Hall, and said that he ordered Mackay to mail a copy of the report to him at Charleston, S. C. He said that Mrs. Victor Hall paid the bill. Asked if he saw Victor's pistol, he replied that the empty cartridge had been removed and placed in a matchbox, and that he and Mackay noticed that it smelled as if it had been loaded in a coffee pot.

"Did you not advise the detective agency not to send a copy of the report to Mrs. Hall at Green Spring?" the mail might be intercepted, and to send you the report, and that you would turn it over to her?"

"No, I did not. I advised them not to mail the report to me at Green Spring."

DEFECTIVE WAS WORKING FOR BROTHER'S ESTATE

In reply to Mr. Gordon, Mr. Hall said that defective was working for his brother's estate. He said that there was a verbal agreement, however, between Superintendent Erb and himself. What that agreement was, did not develop under cross-examination.

"I know," he said, "that Mrs. Hall had requested Mackay to let her have copies of his report."

There were no instructions, he said, not to let Mrs. Hall have a report, though counsel for the defense attempted to make him admit that copies of the report were not to be furnished to Mrs. Hall, though it had been agreed that the Hall estate should pay the bill.

Mr. Fulton read a letter from Mrs. Hall to the detective agency, in which she said that she had Mackay working for her for eleven days and she had not been able to find out anything, and please to send her the bill.

Here the Commonwealth rested.

Miss Elsie Wood, who had testified for the state, was the first witness called by the defense. She could not be found, and Charles Johnston, who had also been put on by the State, was called.

"Did you not say in the presence of Otis Wood and Charlotte and Elsie Wood that you did not know whether the pistol was loaded or not; that it was a Smith & Wesson pistol, and that the cylinder would not revolve unless the pistol was broken?"

"I don't remember."

"Did you not say to some one that you didn't know whether the pistol was loaded or not?"

"Yes, so many people were asking me what I knew, and I had been instructed not to talk," he said. "I didn't know."

Johnston, and Mr. Fulton charged him with threatening Johnston.

"Did you tell the defense about this conversation?"

"When?"

"Shortly after it occurred."

He said that counsel for the defense had approached him and said that Johnston was going to say that the Hall pistol was fully loaded, and that he told Mr. Gordon that Johnston had told him that the pistol was not loaded all around.

J. W. Flannagan came next to the stand.

"Did you have any conversation with Johnston about the Hall pistol?" asked Mr. Gordon.

"I asked him what he knew about the pistol, and he said, 'I don't know a thing about it.'"

He was not cross-examined.

Miss Elsie Wood was called.

"What examination did Mr. Johnston make of the Hall pistol?"

"He picked up the pistol and ran out on the porch, and I said, 'Put it down, it's loaded.' I didn't tell him it was loaded all around. He put it back in the bureau drawer, and I did not see him 'break' it."

COUNTESS' BREAK PISTOL WAS FULLY LOADED

"When he came here as a witness I asked him what he knew, and he said he didn't know anything; that he couldn't swear that the pistol was fully loaded, but that he was subjected to a few questions on cross-examination."

Charles E. Hester was called. He was a member of the coroner's jury which held an inquest on Mrs. Hall's body, and is a brother of Magistrate Hester.

He said that the pistol was cleaner than when he first saw it.

"I examined the barrel of the pistol then, and found a whitish cast inside. I scraped it with my knife and found it 'inside.'"

"Did you examine the exploded shell?"

"Yes, it was a dry, greenish color, as if it had been fired some time. There was moisture in the cylinder, as if it had been fired recently."

"Did you smell any scent about it?"

"No, sir."

On cross-examination, witness said he owned a Colt .44, which he fired once or twice a year. He said that he had never noticed the effect of discharging a pistol four or five hours after it had been fired.

"Do you know the different effects in the appearance of black powder and smokeless powder?"

"No." He said he had used only black powder. He had never seen smokeless powder used in a .38-caliber pistol.

James E. Hester, magistrate, and the coroner who presided over the Hall inquest followed.

He examined the pistol carefully, snapped it several times, and said it was the same he had seen at the coroner's inquest. He said that the weapon was in the same condition as upon the stand had said it was cleaner. He said that the inside of the exploded shell looked dark to him, and that it was "What was your conclusion?"

The colored man suggested burying them, and I said, 'Yes, do it.'"

He said he examined the pistol.

"What was your judgment as to whether it had been recently fired?"

"That it had not been fired; it was dry, and there was rust in the end of the barrel." He said he had handled firearms all his life. He said that the condition of the pistol was about the same as at the inquest.

"How long have you known Mrs. Hall?" asked Mr. Fulton.

"One or two years."

"When did you last see her prior to Victor's death?"

"I can't remember."

"When was that one time you were in her company?"

"At my home. I don't remember when, but about a year ago."

"Did you attend the same church?"

"Sometimes."

He stayed at the Hall store all day of the inquest and that night, he said.

"How many times have you been there since?"

"Probably not over twice. I spent the night after the funeral at the store as there was no one there."

"How many times were you there altogether?"

"Once during the May term of the grand jury and on the day the grand jury went up there."

"Were you there any more before she was arrested?"

"No."

"How many times after she was arrested?"

"I went up there to take care of the store and stayed about ten days." He said Mrs. Hall only twice during that time.

HEAD TALKED TO MRS. HALL

"I've had a conversation with her," he said, "not over five or six times."

"How often did Mrs. Hall use your brother's car?"

"I can't remember," he said.

"You've done everything to aid Mrs. Hall, haven't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"What did you do that?"

"Isn't it a fact that you turned these bloody clothes over to Chisholm and told him to bury them?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you do the same thing for anybody?"

"Isn't it a fact that you turned these bloody clothes over to Chisholm and told him to bury them?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did he bury more than one package at your direction?"

"No, sir."

"Can you examine a pistol and tell how long since it was shot?"

"Well, I guess I did. But it is my impression that he suggested it."

"Did he bury more than one package at your direction?"

"No, sir."

He said he brought Mrs. Hall's insurance policies to Mr. Gordon, but didn't remember Mrs. Hall's instructions.

"What was the condition of those bloody garments which were buried?"

"Well, there was much blood at the autopsy, and I used those clothes to absorb the blood."

"What garments were they?"

"Undershirt, drawers and an over-shirt."

"Didn't I tell you I would pay you for your machine when I used it?"

"Yes, sir, and I accepted."

It had been charged that Roberts gave the use of his machine to Mr. Gordon.

"Can you tell whether a pistol of this kind has been recently fired?"

"Yes, sir."

He said that this pistol was greenish inside, whereas a pistol that has been fired for some time is reddish inside.

"What kind of powder did you use?" asked Mr. Fulton. Mr. Gordon objected. He said there had been no evidence to show what kind of powder

was used in the Hall pistol. He was overruled.

The first test was with black powder.

"What at the next?"

"Smokeless."

"That was the difference in length of time you could smell them?"

"You could smell both of them distinctly nine hours after." The Hall pistol was examined nine hours after Victor had been killed. Witness examined the cylinder after the test and found it moist inside and covered with powder stains, indicating it had been recently fired. He said that there was lubricant on the bullet which killed Hall. He tested a pistol, he said, on old field pine boards, and that sometimes the bullet penetrated through, and killed others it only buried itself in the plank.

The jury filed out, so that Mr. Gordon could ask the court to allow him to introduce evidence about the carrying powder of different pistols. He wanted to cite the case of a suicide in which a different pistol was used. He was overruled by the court, and excepted.

Mr. Gordon then asked for adjournment, so that he could confer with witnesses as to the main line of defense.

MONTAGUE BILL PASSES LOWER HOUSE PROMPTLY

(Continued From First Page.)

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WILL PROVIDE BUILDING COVERING WHOLE BLOCK

The site is just about one-fourth the size of the present post-office building, and the structure, therefore, could be enlarged 25 per cent. After the ground is purchased, another appropriation will be made to cover the cost of the annex, and the new wing of the building will be erected in conformity with the older part. This will cost probably as much as \$250,000, giving Richmond a post-office building of more than \$1,500,000 value, and covering an entire block.

The building is not used for post-office work alone. In it is housed the Internal Revenue Department, the customs-house, United States District Court, United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and a half-dozen other government bureaus. The courtroom of the Circuit Court of Appeals is said to be the most magnificent Federal court, with the exception of the Supreme Court, in the country.

Postmaster Hay T. Thornton, when apprised of the passage of the bill last night, was greatly surprised to hear that the appropriation got through with such ease.

"We owe it all to the work of Congressman Montague," he stated. "I knew that Congressman Mann, leader of the minority party, had announced his opposition to the bill, while Congressman Barton was also against it, so I am surprised to find out that it went through so easily. Congressman Montague has seen all of the opponents and won them over. The appropriation is certainly due to him."

COMMITTEE CAME HERE TO VIEW LOCATION

The need of the enlargement was recognized by the congressional committee, headed by Chairman Clark, of Florida, which inspected the site in April. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Clark stated at the time that he thought Congress would be fully justified in the expenditure.

Business and civic organizations have endorsed the plan to purchase the site under consideration, and pressure will be brought to bear upon the owners to have them come to terms with the government. Plans for the erection of a huge skyscraper had been drawn, but the work has been delayed, pending the result of negotiations.

The passage of a bill offered by Senator Swanson, appropriating the sum of \$500,000 for the purchase of the site, is taken as a rich indication of the feeling of the Senate toward the proposition. All appropriation bills must originate in the lower house, and consequently the fight must be conducted again in the Senate to get its endorsement, but it is not expected that serious controversy of the Senate will have already gone on record as approving the enlargement of the Richmond post-office.

Rescues Drowning Man.

But for the quick assistance rendered by Mike Mosby, Edgar Strayer, 1908 Jackson Street, would probably have lost his life by drowning in a pond at thirty-eight and 17 streets, late yesterday afternoon. According to witnesses, Strayer had been beneath the surface several minutes before Mosby could locate and bring him to the surface. The City Ambulance, with Dr. Pitkowitz in charge, was rushed to the scene of the near-drowning, and the surgeon soon had the victim on his feet. Little the worse for his experience, Strayer is supposed to have been the cause of Strayer's inability to swim to safety.

Reckless Driving of Motor Truck.

Oscar Bailey, colored, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detective Sergeant Krenz and Post-Office Inspector A. L. Mosby, charged with using the United States mails to defraud. He was locked in the Second Precinct Station pending his appearance before Justice Crutcher in the Police Court this morning.

Murray's Arrest.

Negro Alleged to Have Attempted to Cash Money Order Belonging to Some One Else.

James Murray, colored, was arrested late yesterday afternoon by Detective Sergeant Krenz and Post-Office Inspector A. L. Mosby, charged with using the United States mails to defraud. He was locked in the Second Precinct Station pending his appearance before Justice Crutcher in the Police Court this morning.

Murray boarded at 536 North Second Street and had agreed to two mail deliveries to that place. It is alleged that he opened a letter addressed to a woman living there and returned a check to the sender in Jacksonville, Fla., with the request that money be sent instead of the check. A money order was accordingly sent, and again the letter was addressed to have been returned to collect the order and Murray was arrested. The charges were entered against him at Jacksonville, and it is probable that he will be taken there for trial.

Lumber Dealer in Bankruptcy.

William E. McMillan, manufacturer and dealer in lumber, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy yesterday afternoon in the United States District Court, and Melvin Fleckenheimer was appointed receiver for the estate. His liabilities were placed at \$108,193.33, with assets amounting to \$3,705.41.

Struck by Automobile.

G. L. Coleman, 724 1-2 North Third Street, was slightly injured yesterday afternoon when struck by an automobile. The property of the victim, cleaning and Remington's Company's Ambulance Surgeon Pitkowitz treated him.

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